

body **13** is held so that its upper end is flush with the surface of the top plate **122** and that its lower end projects downward from the hole portion **121a** by a predetermined distance. Further, when a pushup force acts on the lower end of the pin main body **13a** (this will be described later in detail), the flange portion **13b** is moved until it contacts against the bottom surface of the top plate **122**. Then, the upper end of the pin main body **13a** projects from the top plate **122** by a predetermined dimension.

[0032] A large number of partitioning walls **14a** are arranged in juxtaposition along the width direction of the unit substrate **11**. The adjacent partitioning walls **14b** constitute a piezoelectric element piece holding section **14b** (see FIG. 4). The piezoelectric element piece holding sections **14b** correspond to the respective tactile pins **13** and are formed at 64 positions, i.e. 32 positions on each surface of the unit substrate **11**.

[0033] The partitioning walls **14a** are formed to have a predetermined length along the height direction of the unit substrate **11**. A circular piezoelectric element piece support point section **14c** is formed at the proximal end (fixed end) of each partitioning wall **14a**. The partitioning wall **14** is tapered toward its leading end. In this case, the spacing between the adjacent piezoelectric element piece support point sections **14c** is small enough to sandwich a node portion (support point) of the piezoelectric element piece **15** for a bending operation, described later.

[0034] The piezoelectric element piece holding section **14b** holds the piezoelectric element piece **15**. As shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B, the piezoelectric element piece **15** is of a bimorph type in which a thin piece **15c** of an elastic conductive material such as a nickel alloy is interposed between piezoelectric layers **15a** and **15b** composed of a piezoelectric material, for example, PZT. Further, with 200 V applied to one **15a** of the piezoelectric layers of a proximal end **151** and with the other piezoelectric layer **15b** and the thin piece **15c** grounded as shown in FIG. 5A, the piezoelectric element piece **15** is bent when 200 V is applied to the piezoelectric layer **15a** and the thin piece **15c** as shown in FIG. 5B.

[0035] The piezoelectric element piece **15** is arranged so that its node portion (support portion) for a bending operation is sandwiched between the piezoelectric element piece support point sections **14c** of the piezoelectric element piece holding sections **14b**. In this case, a free end **152** of each piezoelectric element piece **15** is located in the space formed between the tapered leading ends of the partitioning walls **14a**.

[0036] A pushup cam **16** is provided between the free end **152** of each piezoelectric element piece **15** and the corresponding tactile pin **13**. Each pushup cam **16** has its central portion supported by a pivot shaft **17** so as to be pivotable, as shown in FIG. 4. The pushup cam **16** is provided with a first action piece **16a** that contacts against the free end **152** of the corresponding piezoelectric element piece **15** and a second action piece **16b** having a placement surface **16b1** on which the lower end of the corresponding tactile pin **13** is placed. In this case, the pushup cam **16** is formed to have a large angle (obtuse angle) between the first action piece **16a** and the placement surface **16b1** of the second action piece **16b**. Thus, when the free end **152** of the bent piezoelectric element piece **15** pushes the first action piece **16a** from the

lateral direction, the pushup cam **16** is pivoted around the pivot shaft **17**. Then, the tactile pin **13** placed on the second action piece **16b** is pushed up until the flange portion **13b** of the pin main body **13a** contacts against the bottom surface of the top plate **122**.

[0037] Specifically, the angle between the first action piece **16a** of the pushup cam **16** and the placement surface **16b1** of the second action piece **16b**, on which the lower end of the tactile pin **13** is placed, is about 140°. While the first action piece **16a** is not pushed by the free end **152** of the piezoelectric element piece **15**, the angle between the placement surface **16b1** of the second action piece **16b** and the horizontal direction is about 30°. After the free end **152** of the piezoelectric element piece **15** has pushed the first action piece **16a** to push up the corresponding tactile pin **13** until its flange portion **13b** contacts against the bottom surface of the top plate **122**, the angle between the placement surface **16b1** of the second action piece **16b** and the horizontal direction is about 45°.

[0038] That is, the pushup cam **16** is formed to have such a large angle (obtuse angle) between the first action piece **16a** and the second action piece **16b** that the pushup cam **16** can be slightly bent. Thus, the tactile pin **13** is pushed up as a result of a small pivot angle associated with a bending operation of the corresponding piezoelectric element piece **15**. This enables a reduction in the space required to pivot each pushup cam **16**. Therefore, the spacing between the piezoelectric element pieces **15** and the tactile pins **13** can be reduced. This makes it possible to set a much smaller distance between the tactile pins **13**.

[0039] For example, with the conventional pushup cam, the distance between the tactile pins is about 3 mm at minimum. However, with the present embodiment, the distance can be reduced down to about 2.4 mm.

[0040] A printed circuit board **18** as wiring part is provided at the lower end of the unit substrate **11**.

[0041] The printed circuit board **18** is located so that its upper edge is close to the node portion of each piezoelectric element piece **15** for a bending operation, i.e. close to the piezoelectric element piece support point section **14c** of the corresponding partitioning wall **14a**. Furthermore, the printed circuit board **18** is located so that its lower edge is close to the proximal end **151** of the corresponding piezoelectric element piece **15**.

[0042] Terminals **18a**, **18b**, and **18c** are formed on a surface of the printed circuit board **18** in association with the piezoelectric layers **15a** and **15b** and thin piece **15c**, respectively, at the proximal end **151** of each piezoelectric element piece **15**. Leads **19a** and **19b** are used to connect the piezoelectric layers **15a** and **15b** to the terminals **18a** and **18b**, respectively. Further, the thin piece **15c** is connected directly to the terminal **18c**. Printed wiring is provided on the back surface of the printed circuit board **18** and has an electric circuit used to guide the terminals **18a**, **18b**, and **18c** to a drive circuit board **20**, described later.

[0043] A drive circuit board **20** is provided at the side of the unit substrate **11**. A drive IC **21** is provided in the middle of the drive circuit board **20**. The drive IC **21** determines those of the piezoelectric element pieces **15** which are to be driven, on the basis of data transmitted by a computer (not shown) and corresponding to graphical information. The